(c) The existing arrangements are consider adeuate.

Powers and functions of the North-eastern Council

847. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the powers and functions of the reconstituted North-Eastern Council;

(b) who would be the permanent Chairman of the Council; and

(c) whether it is better to keep it directly under a separate Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) The North Eastern Council has not yet been reconstituted. It ha>, however, been decided to restructure the North Eastern Council with the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission as Chairman and the Chief Ministers of the 7 North Eastern States as Members. The North Eastern Council would also have powers to sanction schemes once approved by the Council within its approved Budget subject to such conditions as may be laid down by the Central Government. The Scope of the schemes of the North Eastern Council will include major schemes of inter-State benefit located in individual States in addition to schemes of inter-State character. The North Eastern Council would shed its role of reviewing security related matters.

(c) After appropriate amendments to the North Eastern Council Act, 1971 the administrative control of the Council is proposed to be transferred from the Ministry of Home Affairs to the Planning Commission.

Cases of theft, robbery registered with Paharganj Police Station

848. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases registered in the Paharganj Police Station regarding Theft/robberies in the Aram Bagh area of New Delhi during the month of June, 1997 till date;

(b) whether cases of theft/robberies are increasing day-by-day in the locality; and

(c) if so, the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) Two cases of theft in the Aram Bagh area were registered at the Paharganj Police Station during the Period from 1st June, 1997 to the 10th July, 1997.

(b) and (c) No, Sir, However, Delhi Police is exercising increased vigilance in the area.

Arms dropping in Purulia

849. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that one foreign agency alerted New Delhi about possibility of arms dropping operation in West Bengal-Bihar border areas specially Purulia,

(b) if so, why the concerned authoriy failed to alert the concerned security agencies; and

(c) what follow-up action has been initiated for such negligence? -

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Advance information regarding the possibility of arms being unloaded by a small plane after landing at an abondoned airfiled in Dhanbad area

of Bihar for an insurgent group of that area was available which was conveyed to the concerned intelligence agency. The Government of Bihar was accordingly sensitised by the concerned inlelligence agency.

(c) The Central Bureau of Investigation which has been entrusted with the investigation of this case, has submitted reports highlighting certain administrative lapses on the part of different agencies that came to light during investigation. The concerned authorities have been apprised of the reports of the CBI for appropriate action.

Vohra Committee Report

850. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the annexures of the Vohra Committee Report on criminal-politician nexus, are missing from the Home Ministry's files;

(b) if so, whether any responsibility has been fixed for this; and

(c) how the Supreme Court directive of 20th March, 1997, regarding setting up a high-level Committee to monitor the investigation/prosecutions indicted in Vohra Committee Report would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) The Vohra Committee Report is complete in itself. There is no annexure to the Report.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Supreme Court in its judgement has recommended that a High Level Committee be appointed by the President of India with the advice of the Prime Minister and after consultation with the Speaker of Lok Sabha for monitoring investigations involving the kind of nexus referred to in the Vohra Committee Report. The issues and options arising out of the Recommendations of the Hon'ble Supreme Court with regard to the Vohra Committee Report are engaging the attention of the Government.

News-item regarding billing out accused, a Thriving Trade

851. SHRI AMAR SINGH Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Indian Express dated June 24, 1997 under the heading 'Bailling out accused a thriving trade'.

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) how many imposters have since been arrested during the last five years; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to curb such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news-item relates to fabrication/forging of documents etc. by some uncrupulous elements for providing surety to accused persons granted bail.

(c) During the last five years from 1992 to 1996, Delhi Police had arrested 118 persons allegedly involved in this malpractice.

(d) Delhi Police take appropriate action against the offenders as and when such incidents come to their notice.

Revamping the Security Arrangements for VIPs.

852. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to revamp the security arrangements for